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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-1469/2

27 APR 1984

The Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to respond to your letter of 13 April 1984 wherein you seek to confirm the Committee's understanding of the course of action the Agency will pursue upon enactment of H.R. 5164.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the understanding that, upon enactment of H.R. 5164, the Agency will establish a specific program designed to substantially reduce, if not entirely eliminate, the current two-to-three year backlog of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. You will recall that in answering a specific question by Representative Mazzoli during the hearing, we committed ourselves to the goal of responding to new FOIA requests in a matter of weeks, or at the most months, depending on the complexity of the request. As we have previously made clear, given our compartmented system of records, we will rarely be able to give a FOIA requester a final response within the statutory 10-day time limit. However, the Agency will make continuing efforts to reduce our response time to the minimum amount necessary consistent with the needs of national security.

Additionally, this is to confirm your understanding that the Agency will maintain the current budgetary and personnel allocation for FOIA processing activities for a period of two years following enactment of this legislation.

On behalf of the entire Agency, I would like to express our appreciation for the Committee's time and effort in giving careful consideration to this legislation. I would also like to thank the Committee staff for all their assistance in this important legislative effort. I look forward to working with you to secure expeditious consideration of H.R. 5164 in the Committee on Government Operations and timely passage by the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey
William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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